

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185054

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN

SUBJECT: ASEAN MINISTERIAL -- TOP LEVEL USG PARTICIPATION

REF: MANILA 12469 (NOTAL)

1. THE DEPARTMENT, AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE ASEAN
WASHINGTON COMMITTEE, IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDING TO VICE
PRESIDENT MONDALE THAT HE ATTEND THE CONCLUDING ASEAN
DINNER AS GUEST OF HONOR ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 4. THE VICE
PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION WOULD RE-EMPHASIZE TOP LEVEL USG
SUPPORT FOR ASEAN AND HELP TO COMPENSATE FOR THE DROPPING
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OF THE PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION.

2. THE PRESIDENT HAS CONFIRMED THAT HE WILL MEET WITH THE
TOP ASEAN PARTICIPANTS AT 11:30 A.M. ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 4.
WE HAVE INFORMED THE AWC OF THIS DEVELOPMENT. THE
PRESIDENT WILL LIKELY MEET WITH ASEAN IN THE CABINET ROOM
AND WE EXPECT THE PRESS TO BE PRESENT FOR THE FIRST SEVERAL

MINUTES AT WHICH TIME THE PRESIDENT MIGHT INFORMALLY GREET
THE MINISTERS AND GENERAL ROMULO MIGHT RETURN THE GREETING.

3. THE EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM THE GOP OF THESE PLANS,
EMPHASIZING THE TENTATIVE NATURE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S
PARTICIPATION AND OF THE HANDLING OF THE MEETING WITH THE
PRESIDENT. WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ASEAN (GEN. ROMULO'S)
VIEW WHETHER IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION NOT
TAKING PLACE, MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SHOULD STILL BE
LIMITED TO ASEAN HEADS OF DEL OR SHOULD OTHERS BE ADDED
(I.E., UP TO TOTAL OF 15 ASEAN PARTICIPANTS).

4. FYI: WE HAVE EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF REINSTATING
PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION BUT THIS HAS NOT PROVED FEASIBLE.
WE BELIEVE ARRANGEMENTS OUTLINED IN PARA. 2 WILL PROVIDE
EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
WHICH WAS WHAT AWC TOLD US WAS MOST IMPORTANT. END FYI.

VANCE

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